

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the present application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remains under examination in the application are presented below. The claims are presented in ascending order and each includes one status identifier. Those claims not cancelled or withdrawn but amended by the current amendment utilize the following notations for amendment: 1. deleted matter is shown by strikethrough for six or more characters and double brackets for five or less characters; and 2. added matter is shown by underlining.

1. (Currently Amended) A preformed horizontally elongated block for use in a retaining wall, the preformed horizontally elongated block comprising:

a front portion, a rear portion, and a web portion connecting the front and rear portions, the front portion having first and second sides spaced apart by a first lateral dimension, a top surface, [[and]] a bottom surface, a front surface and a back surface, the rear portion having first and second sides spaced apart by a second lateral dimension, a top surface and a bottom surface, wherein the second lateral dimension is less than the first lateral dimension, the web portion substantially solid with no cores and having a pair of side surfaces, a top and a bottom; the front of the block comprising a viewable surface and a back surface; a single polyhedral projection extending outwardly from the [[block]] top or bottom of the web portion, the projection including an indexing surface and presenting a first width dimension in a direction extending between the front portion and the rear portion of the block; and

the block defining a recess [[at the]] opposite block top or bottom from the location of the projection, the recess extending transversely and continuously across the block, the recess comprising a stop surface that is coplanar with the back surface of the front portion, wherein the recess of the horizontally elongated block permits presents a second width dimension in the direction extending between the front portion and the rear portion of the block, the second width dimension greater than the first width dimension so as to enable the indexing surface of the projection of a second block to engage the [[back]] stop surface of the front of the horizontally elongated block with no other portion of the projection of the second block contacting the horizontally elongated block.

2. (Currently Amended) A preformed horizontally elongated block for use in a retaining wall, the preformed horizontally elongated block comprising:

a front member comprising a viewable surface, a rear surface, opposing sides, opposing top and bottom surfaces, wherein the front member has a lateral extent; a rear member comprising an interior surface, an exterior surface, opposing sides, and opposing top and bottom surfaces, wherein the rear member has a lateral extent and wherein the lateral extent of the front member is greater than the lateral extent of the rear member;

a web connecting the front member to the rear member, the web substantially solid with no cores and having opposing sides, and opposing top and bottom surfaces; and

a single polyhedral projection extending outwardly from at least a portion of the ~~top or bottom surfaces of at least one of the front member, the rear member, and the web, the projection including an indexing surface;~~

the web defining a recess on the opposite block top or bottom [[that]] from the location of the projection is located, the recess extending transversely and continuously across the web, the recess comprising defined by a stop surface that is coplanar with the back surface of the front member, wherein the recess of the horizontally elongated block permits is dimensioned so as to enable the indexing surface of the projection of a second block to engage the [[back]] stop surface of the front member of the horizontally elongated block with no other portion of the projection of the second block contacting the horizontally elongated block.

3. (Currently Amended) The block of claim 1, wherein ~~the projection comprises an indexing surface and the recess comprises a stop surface, with the indexing and stop surfaces of the horizontally elongated block[[s]] are~~ in vertical alignment with each other, and [[with]] wherein the indexing and stop surfaces serve[[ing]] to position the block in one course in a predetermined relation with another block in an adjacent course as the indexing and stop surfaces of adjacent courses of blocks are brought into registry with each other.

4. (Currently Amended) The block of claim 1, wherein the indexing and stop surfaces of the horizontal block [[is]] are offset from another block by a first predetermined distance with respect to the viewable surface of each block.

5. (Currently Amended) The block of claim 1, wherein the indexing and stop surfaces of the horizontal block [[is]] are offset from another block by one of a plurality of predetermined distances with respect to the viewable surface of each block.

6. (Currently Amended) The block of claim 1, ~~wherein the projection comprises an indexing surface and the recess comprises a stop surface, with wherein~~ the indexing and stop surfaces of an adjacent course of blocks serve[[ing]] to position the ~~viewable~~ front surface of a block in one course of blocks in a predetermined relation with a block in an adjacent course as the indexing and stop surfaces of adjacent course of blocks are brought into registry with each other.

7. (Original) The block of claim 6, wherein the predetermined relation is coplanar.

8. (Original) The block of claim 6, wherein the predetermined relation is offset by a first predetermined distance.

9. (Original) The block of claim 6, wherein the predetermined relation is one of a plurality of predetermined distances.

10. (Currently Amended) A retaining wall comprising: a plurality of horizontal, preformed blocks, with each horizontal, preformed block being substantially solid with no cores and comprising a front, a rear, opposing sides, a top and a bottom, the front comprising a viewable

surface and a back surface, with the plurality of horizontal, preformed blocks stacked one above the other; wherein each of the horizontal preformed blocks comprises: a single polyhedral projection extending outwardly from the block top or bottom, the projection presenting an indexing surface and presenting a first width dimension in a direction extending between the front portion and the rear portion of the block, each of the horizontal preformed blocks defin[[e]]ing a recess on the opposite block top or bottom where the projection is located, the recess extend[[s]]ing transversely across the block between the opposing sides, the recess compris[[es]]ing a stop surface that is coplanar with the rear surface of the front; with the projection and the recess extending vertically in the same direction relative to the block, and with the projection of each the horizontal preformed blocks arranged and configured to engage be received in the recess of the block in an adjacent course of blocks; and wherein the recess of the block permits presents a second width dimension in the direction extending between the front portion and the rear portion of the block, the second width dimension greater than the first width dimension so as to enable the indexing surface of the projection of a second block to engage the back surface of the front of the block with no other portion of the projection of the second block contacting the block, [[and]] so as to thereby position the adjacent courses of blocks together in a predetermined relation.

11. (Original) The retaining wall of claim 10, wherein: the plurality of horizontal, preformed blocks are stacked one above the other in a columnar fashion with one block in one course positioned directly over another block in an underlying course.

12. (Original) The retaining wall of claim 10, wherein: the plurality of horizontal, preformed blocks are stacked one above the other in a running bond fashion with each block in one course overlapping the joint between a pair of blocks in an underlying course.

13. (Currently Amended) The retaining wall of claim 10, wherein ~~the projection comprises an indexing surface and the recess comprises a stop surface; with the indexing and stop surfaces of each block are~~ in vertical alignment with each other, and [[with]] the indexing and stop surfaces serve[[ing]] to position blocks in one course in a predetermined relation with blocks in an adjacent course as the indexing and stop surfaces of adjacent courses of blocks are brought into registry with each other.

14. (Original) The retaining wall of claim 10, wherein the indexing and stop surfaces of each the horizontal blocks are offset from each other by a first predetermined distance with respect to the viewable surface of each block.

15. (Original) The retaining wall of claim 10, wherein the indexing and stop surfaces of each the horizontal blocks are offset from each other by one of a plurality of predetermined distances with respect to the viewable surface of each block.

16. (Currently Amended) The retaining wall of claim 10, wherein ~~each the projection comprises an indexing surface and each the recess comprises a stop surface; with the indexing and stop~~

surfaces of adjacent courses of blocks serve[[ing]] to position the viewable surfaces of blocks in one course in a predetermined relation with blocks in an adjacent course as the indexing and stop surfaces of adjacent course of blocks are brought into registry with each other.

17. (Original) The retaining wall of claim 16, wherein the predetermined relation is coplanar.

18. (Original) The retaining wall of claim 16, wherein the predetermined relation is offset by a first predetermined distance.

19. (Original) The retaining wall of claim 16, wherein the predetermined relation is one of a plurality of predetermined distances.

20. (Original) The retaining wall of claim 16, wherein the plurality of horizontal preformed blocks have different thicknesses.

21. (Original) The retaining wall of claim 16, wherein the plurality of horizontal preformed blocks have the same longitudinal extent.

22. (Original) The block of claim 1, wherein the viewable surface of the front member comprises a plurality of facets.

23-34. (Cancel)

35. (New) A preformed concrete block for use in a retaining wall comprising:

a front portion, a rear portion, and a neck portion connecting the front and rear portions, the front, rear and neck portions all substantially solid with no cores therein, the front portion presenting a first lateral dimension and having a front surface, a back surface, a top surface and a bottom surface, the rear portion presenting a second lateral dimension, and having a front surface, a back surface, a top surface and a bottom surface, wherein the second lateral dimension is smaller than the first lateral dimension, the neck portion substantially solid with no cores and having a top surface and a bottom surface, the top surfaces of the front portion, rear portion and neck portion together defining a block top surface, the bottom surfaces of the front portion, back rear portion and web portion together defining a block bottom surface;

a single polyhedral projection extending outwardly from the block bottom surface, the projection including an indexing surface; and

a recess defined in the block top surface opposite the projection, the recess extending transversely and continuously across the block, the recess partially defined by a stop surface extending laterally across the back surface of the front portion, wherein the recess of the block is dimensioned so as to enable the indexing surface of the projection of a second block to engage the stop surface of the block with no other portion of the projection of the second block contacting the block.

36. (New) The block of claim 1, wherein the projection is generally rectangular.

37. (New) The block of claim 1, wherein the projection is generally trapezoidal.

38. (New) The block of claim 2, wherein the projection is generally rectangular.

40. (New) The block of claim 2, wherein the projection is generally trapezoidal.

41. (New) The block of claim 10, wherein the projection is generally rectangular.

42. (New) The block of claim 10, wherein the projection is generally trapezoidal.